



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Volunteers recognized for Meserve Park facility improvements

The City of Brawley will hold an event at 10 a.m. Saturday in Meserve Park, J and Second Streets, to recognize volunteers who collaborated with the City to build permanent restroom facilities in the park.

Budget constraints kept the long anticipated construction project out of reach. Completion of the project replaces portable facilities that were placed within the park for limited times of the year.

“Completion of this project proves how much the City and our community can accomplish even when financial resources are so hard to come by,” said Mayor Sam Couchman. “This collaboration made a long-held dream a reality and made Brawley an even better place to live, work and play.”

Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, who represents the Coachella and Imperial Valleys and is chair of the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife, will also join to recognize the Imperial County Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO and the volunteers who stepped forward to support the project.

Meserve Park has been the recipient of the community’s generosity in recent years. Helena Chemical has helped to advance a re-seeding project. The Anthony Garcia Foundation and the family of William Presley supported infield renovations.

Brawley resident, Ramon Castro, who is with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 569, and Rusty Garcia, a girls softball advocate, developed the concept that led to the construction of the permanent restroom facilities near the girls’ softball field in the park.

Castro said he urged the City of Brawley to approach the Imperial County Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO about the project. City staff presented the request for assistance in March of 2015 which was met with enthusiasm.

“The Council includes all the trades and we do projects to support and improve the community,” Castro said. “This was a natural for us.”

He said he felt the project was needed for the safety of the girls who play softball and the benefit of nearby businesses that are often approached by non-customers wanting to use their restroom facilities.

“This was better for the girls and better for business,” he said.

While not surprised that the Building & Construction Trades Council would agree to provide volunteer labor, Castro said he learned a great deal when he was named the project manager for the project.

The City already had designs for a restroom, which features cinder block walls, from a project built at the City Airport. City crews did the trenching for the sewer and utility connections, as well as other site

prep work for the Meserve Park project.

Castro said with volunteer labor, the project took about 11 months from actual start to completion with Parks & Recreation staff helping to finish the work. As the project progressed, other local residents came forward to lend a hand. And, the Anthony Garcia Foundation provided sod to install around the new facility. "If one act of kindness inspires others to get involved," Castro said, "it was a very good project."

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